



Security Council

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Letter dated 21 June 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 19 June 2013 from H.E. General Michel Sleiman, President of the Lebanese Republic (see annex). President Sleiman requested that it be transmitted to the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

The letter draws attention to infringement of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity by the conflicting Syrian parties.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

I should like to extend my greetings and draw your attention to the following information.

Since the outset of the events in Syria, Lebanon has continually emphasized its concern for the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria and the security of its people. Lebanon has adopted a policy of dissociation, which was restated and reaffirmed in the Baabda Declaration issued by the National Dialogue Committee on 11 June 2012 (A/66/849-S/2012/477).

As the events have unfolded, violations of Lebanese sovereignty from the Syrian side have affected the lives and property of innocent Lebanese civilians. Lebanon has worked assiduously to control the situation on the Lebanese-Syrian border. It remains committed to addressing those violations with the utmost degree of responsibility through the competent diplomatic and security channels. I should like to bring to your attention my stated position, which is that the repeated shelling of Lebanese territory by the parties to the conflict in Syria — most recently the shelling of the town of Aarsal by a Syrian military helicopter on 12 June 2013, the rocket attack by Syrian irregular armed groups on the towns of Hirmil, Sir'ayn, Baalbek and Nabi Sheet, all of which resulted in civilian injuries — violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, endanger the safety and security of its citizens and contravene international conventions and the agreements governing relations between the two States, all at a time when the Lebanese State is endeavouring to preserve the stability and civil peace of Lebanon.

I should be grateful if this letter could be transmitted to the President of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) General Michel Sleiman
